

Get to
know the

i-codes

This is the fifth in a series of publications exploring the differences between the Uniform and International Codes (I-Codes). Topics covered in the series include means of egress, building uses, heights and areas, types of construction, fire-resistance-rated assemblies, accessibility, structural provisions, and the residential and mechanical codes. Additional topics may be added in 2004.

Introducing the IMC

About the Codes

The 2003 editions of the International Building, Residential, Mechanical and Fire Codes (I-Codes) replaced the Uniform Codes in Seattle on Aug. 15, 2004*.

Copies can be purchased from the Public Resource Center (PRC), 20th floor, Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Ave., (206) 684-8467, or:

- WA Assn. of Building Officials
(360) 586-6725, www.wabo.org
- International Code Council (ICC)
(800) 284-4406, www.iccsafe.org

— I-Codes Training

I-Code trainings are offered by the following organizations:

- WA Assn. of Building Officials
(360) 586-6725, www.wabo.org
- International Code Council
(800) 284-4406, www.iccsafe.org
- American Inst. of Architects-Seattle, (206) 448-4938
www.aiaseattle.org
- Structural Engineers Assn. of WA
(206) 682-6026, www.seaw.org
- Building Industry Assn. of WA
(360) 352-7800, www.biaw.com
- Master Builders Assn. of King & Snohomish Counties
(425) 451-7920, www.mba-ks.com

— Technical Code Support

- Building Code
(206) 684-4630
Hours: M-F, 1 p.m.-4:15 p.m.
- Electrical Code
(206) 684-5383
Hours: M/W/F, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Tu/Th, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Energy/Mechanical Code
(206) 684-7846
Hours: M-F, 1 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

Overview of New Mechanical Code

With the adoption of the International Codes, the state has given us five new mechanical codes.

- The International Mechanical Code (IMC) will apply to most mechanical systems.
- The International Fuel Gas Code will apply to fuel-gas equipment and piping, in addition to provisions of the IMC.
- Liquefied petroleum gas (lpg) installations will be governed by two standards of the National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 58 (Storage and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases) and ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54 (National Fuel Gas Code). The Seattle Fire Code also has provisions governing the use of lpg.
- The International Residential Code has its own mechanical provisions that will apply to one- and two-family residences and townhouses.



IMC provisions for commercial kitchen hoods negates the need for some current Seattle amendments.

In the past, Seattle has incorporated the State Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Code (VIAQ) into the Seattle Mechanical Code. We are proposing to delete those provisions from the 2003 Seattle Code, and refer to the VIAQ instead.

Many of the more significant changes between the IMC and the Uniform Mechanical Code are in format and organization, rather than in substantive provisions. For example, Chapter 5, "Exhaust Systems," is organized around use categories. Provisions from the Fire Code governing exhaust systems also appear in the IMC. There are some substantive changes in the provisions for commercial kitchen hoods, which are allowing DPD to propose deleting some of the current Seattle amendments.



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Visit DPD's new
Technical Codes website:
[www.seattle.gov/
dpd/techcodes](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/techcodes)